

Appl. No.: 09/747,920

Amdt. dated October 28, 2004

Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the section on page 6 under "Description of the Drawings" as follows:

For a further understanding of the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a commercial refrigeration system having a medium temperature food merchandiser;

Figure 2 is an elevation view of a representative layout of the commercial refrigeration system shown schematically in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side elevation view, partly in section, of a preferred embodiment of the refrigerated merchandiser of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a plan view taken along line 4-4 of Figure 3; [[and]]

Figure 5 is a graphical comparison of the air flow velocity profile leaving a relatively high pressure drop evaporator having a flow baffle disposed upstream thereof in accordance with the present invention as compared to the air velocity profile leaving a relatively low pressure drop evaporator without an upstream flow baffle; and

Figures 6A, 6B and 6C show alternate embodiments, respectively, of the flow baffle taken along line 6-6 of Figure 4.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, and extending through page 9, line 16, as follows:

Referring now to Figures 3 and 4, the open-front, insulated cabinet 110 of the refrigerated medium temperature merchandiser 100 defines a product display area 125 provided with a plurality of display shelves 130. The evaporator 40 and a plurality of air circulating fans 70, commonly axial flow fans, are arranged in laterally spaced relationship in the compartment 120 of the merchandiser 100 upstream with respect to air flow of the evaporator. The compartment 120 is connected in an air flow circulation circuit with the product display area via flow ducts 112, 114 and 116 provided in the walls of the insulated cabinet 110. In accordance with the present invention, a flow baffle 150, having a plurality of discrete flow apertures 155 provided therethrough, for example a perforated plate as depicted in Figures 3 and 4, is disposed intermediate the evaporator and the fans. The flow baffle 150 functions to redistribute the airflow from the flow pattern conventionally associated with such a plurality of laterally spaced fans to a relatively more uniform flow pattern. Most advantageously, the flow apertures are relatively evenly distributed across the flow baffle and have a collective open flow area comprising from about 15% to about 40% of the nominal flow area of the compartment 120 between the fans 70 and the inlet to the evaporator 40. The flow baffle 150 may comprise equivalent multi-apertured structure such as a screen mesh member as illustrated in Figure 6A, a slotted planar member as illustrated in Figure 6B, a planar member having a honeycomb passageway structure as illustrated in Figure 6C, or a like member. Alternatively, the flow baffle 150 may comprise a plurality of such multi-apertured members stacked in axially spaced relationship along the flow path between the fans and the evaporator.